

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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G. RAY ARNETT, NATIONALLY KNOWN CONSERVATIONIST, TO BE NOMINATED AS ASSISTANT INTERIOR SECRETARY

Interior Secretary James Watt said today that President Reagan had announced his intention to nominate "a superbly qualified conservationist and outdoorsman," G. Ray Arnett, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, subject to Senate confirmation.

Arnett, 56, of Stockton, California, served two terms as president of the National Wildlife Federation, the Nation's largest conservation organization, ending in 1978. From 1969 to 1975 he was director of the California Department of Fish and Game under then-Governor Reagan.

"Everything in Ray Arnett's career and personality testifies to his devotion to America's outdoor heritage," Secretary Watt said. "His credentials are tremendous. He will be a forceful spokesman for parks, fish and wildlife and outdoor recreation in our Interior Department councils."

The Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks is the top official with direct responsibility for the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Born in Quantico, Virginia, June 14, 1924, Arnett attended Virginia and California schools and won a degree in geology at the University of Southern California. He served four years with the Marine Corps during World War II, receiving a field commission in the Pacific Theater, and two additional years during the Korean conflict. As a geologist, he roamed wild areas in the United States and abroad exploring for petroleum.

Active in civic work, Arnett became involved in many groups concerned with wildlife and fishery resources. He has served as a director of the National Wildlife Federation for 17 years. He was one of the founders, and later board chairman, of the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America and its companion organization, the Wildlife Conservation Fund of America. In addition, he has held leadership posts with the Wilderness Leadership School; Game Conservation International; World Wilderness Congress; Californians for Recreation; Ducks Unlimited, and other bodies.

Arnett has served on the San Diego-LaJolla Underwater Park Advisory Committee and numerous other groups concerned with ocean resources; the Advisory Committee to save the endangered California condor; the California Environmental Quality Study Council; the Wildlife Society; and the seven-State Colorado River Wildlife Council, among others. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, dog training, and skin diving.